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By JK, NARS, Date 6/14/78

DATE: November 5, 1962

TO: The Vice President

FROM: Colonel Burris

RE: Highlights of World Activities and Situations

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Soviet Union

57(6)(3) The Cuban crisis is expected to produce strains on Soviet leadership. Khrushchev has previously been criticized for his ventures and in straying from the traditional Stalinist line, but any effort to remove him or subjugate him would not be an easy undertaking. During his years in office he has been careful to build up an effective control of the party, the armed forces and the secret police. The one who chose to challenge him directly would probably encounter violent and effective resistance. At the same time, it does not appear that it will be necessary for Khrushchev to embark upon a new adventure in order to get back on the winning side. He may, however, find it necessary to look for a scapegoat or two, and sooner or later one of his principal military advisers may be the victim

Quite possibly there may be no violent reaction in the Kremlin, and the Cuban adventure will simply be written off as a gamble of a fast and inexpensive way to vastly improve Russian strategic military potential while gaining a formidable political weapon of blackmail.

Iran

Shortly after your visit to Iran, the Soviets renewed their pressures on the Shah for a non-aggression pact and for assurance against the establishment of missile bases in Iran. The Iranians rejected the pact, but issued a declaration on the missile bases. The Soviets immediately began a program "to improve relations". They offered to furnish professors for Iranian Universities, carry out irrigation and power projects, negotiate an airline agreement, construct silos and increase trade. The Iranians rejected the professors and the airline agreement, but expressed a willingness to discuss the irrigation and power projects as well as the silo construction. The Iranians are willing to increase trade with the Russians provided arrangements are made for payments instead of the barter agreement suggested by the Russians. In summary, therefore, the Russians have renewed their efforts to improve relations with the Iranians and to bring them into the Soviet camp. The Iranians remain traditionally wary but are willing to go along with the proposal to a degree intended to avoid the charge of western domination.

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Germany

Chancellor Adenauer finds himself in the center of a storm of controversy over the Spiegel affair. This magazine which is the German equivalent of Life published an article on German defense efforts and purportedly it was based on highly classified NATO and Defense Ministry documents. Authenticity of the presentation has never been denied. Two principal issues are involved, both of which affect Adenauer's delicate position at the head of the coalition which keeps him in power. One is the abrupt manner in which the magazine officials were jailed and held; the other was the coldly revealing facts and assessment of the effectiveness of German armed forces. Both issues shocked the German people, and additionally considerable concern exists as to world reaction to these exposures. Adenauer may placate his principal opposition and survive by firing two or three officials concerned principally with the first issue, but his position may be permanently damaged unless he can somehow establish an image of effectiveness of German armed forces greater than that indicated by the NATO documents.

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NATO

The Cuban crisis provided a unique opportunity for a display of support and solidarity. As in the councils of our own government, basic elements of character and attitudes were also revealed. The strongest support of U.S. actions came from the long-standing advocates of a hard line toward the Soviet Union, particularly Germany, France and Turkey. The smaller countries in Europe, Denmark and Norway, took the softest line, perhaps principally because of their vulnerable positions. The performance of Canada was quite weak. Great Britain, Italy, Belgium and Greece took a moderate position. The British did so only in the final analysis because of concern about the reliability of evidence and the fear that the U.S. was moving impulsively and too rapidly. All nations were kept up to date through the medium of briefings by Finletter in the North Atlantic Council. Interest soon waned, however, and the crisis simply magnified the principal talking points of recent years: prior consultation, multilateral forces and actions, etc.

India

There has been a comparative lull in the fighting on the northern border during which supplies in considerable quantity are arriving in Calcutta aboard U.S. jets from Germany. In the meantime efforts are being made to induce Ayub in the first place not to take advantage of India's preoccupation, principally in the northeast. In the second place attempts are being made to pave the way for better Indian-Pakistan relations and possible settlement of the Kashmir question, using the firing of Menon and the common threat of the Chinese Communists as reasons why such accord should be possible. For today's meeting between the

Ambassador and Ayub in Karachi, Galbraith provided an assessment of the military situation at the Chinese border. While the conflict presently is comparatively minor in scale, it could erupt into one of major proportions. Recalling your statement last week about military assessment of that conflict, I all the more agree that it would be certainly appropriate and worthwhile to have a seasoned U.S. military observer in the area or nearby, incognito or otherwise.

Yemen

The United States still has not recognized the revolutionary regime in Yemen which is supported by several thousand troops, planes and logistics from Egypt. The Soviet Union recognized the revolutionary regime almost immediately and our failure to do so has irritated Nasser. On the other hand, Jordan and Saudi Arabia in attempting to protect their own monarchies are attempting to support the deposed regime in Yemen. The Government of Saudi Arabia has been shaky and fears of a coup have been prevalent in that country. Hussein of Jordan proposes to send troops to the assistance of the Saudis but he can ill afford to do so. In summary, revolutionary forces have made considerable progress in this vitally important area. Nasser can be expected to continue the fight against his arch enemies Saud and Hussein. He will use his Soviet supplied equipment until it is exhausted and can perhaps rely upon Russia for more for this particular mission. Nasser's ambition to be leader of the Arab world is an issue to be reckoned with, but it in no way compares to the economic prize of Middle Eastern oil for Nasser or for the Communists.

Soviet Union

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